

# SITTERWERK

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## The Archive of the Future – New Orders of Knowledge in the Sitterwerk

### Invitation

Symposium: November 4/5, 2011

Preliminary workshop by the The Café Society: October 21–23, 2011

The organization of the library in the Sitterwerk is flexible: the current location of every book is always shown in the catalogue. The library adapts to its users, who can bring together books on the shelves associatively or according to specific subjects. This creates references between books that enable other users to make novel discoveries: when searching for particular books, one comes across books that one was not searching for but that, nonetheless, may also be related to the focus of the current interest. In addition, it is also possible to save books that have been brought together for a specific purpose as a group in the catalogue. These cross-references that arise through the diverse uses and questions posed enrich the original library in a multifaceted and unforeseen ways.

During a two-day symposium in November and a workshop in October, the Sitterwerk dedicates itself to the RFID system that has been created in the Art Library and to the possibilities and questions that arise from it. How and where can an added value be derived following on the model of dynamic order that has been created? In this connection, the Sitterwerk sees itself as a thought and research laboratory for the examination and further development of associative systems of order. The events are correspondingly planned as a prelude to future event addressing this topic.

The symposium is divided into three parts. In each part, three speakers will hold a short presentation on the particular issue, report on experiences with various systems of order, or make reference to models for possible future orders of knowledge. A moderator will accompany each presentation and subsequent discussion. The first part deals with tried and tested systems of order, although it will only be possible to demonstrate them exemplarily. The second part examines both conventional as well as alternative systems of order in the fields of art, art documentation, and aesthetics. The final part is dedicated entirely to new systems of thought and should thus provide a summation as well as pave the way for future discussions in a forward-looking manner.

In developing the concept for this event, the Sitterwerk joined forces with partners working in similar research fields. Thus, The Café Society — part of the cooperative the Woods — will hold a preliminary workshop in the Sitterwerk. In this workshop, the various tools created within the framework of dynamic systems of order will be utilized in order to demonstrate the possibilities of associative systems of order. The goal of the workshop is to demonstrate the database generated by the Sitterwerk in a clear and practice-oriented test system.

with publication

Registration  
Sitterwerk  
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## Symposium Program

Friday, November 4, Sitterwerk Art Library

(CV of all the speakers/moderators on pages 4-6)

- 09.30 a.m. Greeting by Felix Lehner, initiator of the Sitterwerk Foundation
- 1st part: Systems of Order
- 10.00 a.m. Moderation: Gerhard Matter, Baselland canton librarian, Liestal:  
introduction to the part
- 10.15 a.m. Paul Michel, Professor emeritus for Old German Literature, University of Zurich,  
and a leading proponent of Enzyklopädiekritik (encyclopedia criticism)
- 10.45 a.m. Tobias Schelling, project leader, Central and University Library, Lucerne
- 11.15 a.m. Break
- 11.45 a.m. Philipp Messner, cultural scientist and archivist in spe, Zurich
- 12.15 p.m. Discussion
- 12.45 p.m. Lunch
- 2nd part: Art
- 14.00 p.m. Moderation: Susanne Bieri, head of the Graphics Collection, Swiss National Library,  
Bern: introduction to the section
- 14.15 p.m. Dorothee Bauerle-Willert, art historian, dramaturge, Berlin
- 14.45 p.m. Hans Witschi, artist and musician, New York
- 15.15 p.m. Break
- 15.45 p.m. Hans Petschar, Director of the Image Archive and Graphics Collection, Austrian  
National Library, Vienna
- 16.15 p.m. Discussion
- 16.45 p.m. End
- 19.00 p.m. Dinner in the Sitterwerk (by registration)

Saturday, November 5, Sitterwerk Art Library

- 3rd part: New Orders of Knowledge
- 09.00 a.m. Optional: tour through the Sitterwerk
- 10.00 a.m. Sitterwerk: introduction to the section and history on-site
- 10.15 a.m. Christian Kern, RFID specialist, InfoMedis AG, Zurich
- 10.45 a.m. Claudia Mareis, design and cultural scientist, eikones, Basel
- 11.15 a.m. Break
- 11.45 a.m. The Café Society (Anthon Astrom, Fabian Wegmüller, Lukas Zimmer), Zurich:  
presentation of the workshop
- 12.15 p.m. Discussion
- 12.45 p.m. Lunch
- 14.00 p.m. Optional: tour of the Sitterwerk

Costs (excluding the dinner on November 4 and overnight stay) including lunch on both days, drinks, coffee, refreshments during breaks

- Fr. 110,- normal admission
- Fr. 70,- students, AHV
- Fr. 50,- patrons, members of the Sitterwerk Association (only a contribution for food, no admission free)
- Fr. 500,- voluntary admission in support of the Sitterwerk

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Optional:

Dinner in the Sitterwerk, Friday November 4, 2011, starting at 7 p.m.: per person Fr. 35,- excluding drinks (registration please with or without dinner)

## Tips for staying overnight in St.Gallen

- Hotel Walhalla, single room starting from Fr. 200,- <http://www.hotelwalhalla.ch/>
- Hotel Einstein, single room starting from Fr. 180,- [www.einstein.ch](http://www.einstein.ch)
- Metropol, single room starting from Fr. 180,- <http://www.hotel-metropol.ch/>
- Hotel Sporting, single room starting from Fr. 90,- <http://www.hotel-sporting.ch/>
- Hote Elite, single room starting from Fr. 74,- <http://www.hotel-elite.ch>
- St.Gallen Youth Hostel, overnight stay starting from Fr. 32, <http://www.youthhostel.ch>

## CV of all the participants (alphabetical)

### Dorothee Bauerle-Willert

Dorothee Bauerle-Willert (\*1951) studied art history, literary criticism, and philosophy in Tübingen and Marburg. 1977, research residency at the Warburg Institute in London, 1980 doctorate. 1980–83 research assistant at the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, 1983 Director of the Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst (Topical Arts Society) in Bremen, 1983–90 Deputy Director at the Ulmer Museum. 1990–2007 guest professor for literary criticism and art history at universities in Asunción, Paraguay, Montevideo, Uruguay, Tallinn, Estonia, Skopje, Macedonia, and Belgrade, Serbia. Since February 2007, an independent author in Berlin, teaching activities at the University of Cologne, at the Hochschule der Künste Dresden, and at the Hochschule für Kunst und Design Halle. Since January 2010, guest dramaturge at the Vorarlberger Landestheater in Bregenz. Numerous publications on contemporary art.

### Susanne Bieri

Susanne Bieri (\*1960), Lic. phil. I, art historian. Head of the Graphics Collection and responsible for Special Collections and the Federal Archive of Historic Monuments of the Swiss National Library. President of the Swiss Posters Union Catalogue (CCSA). President of Memoriav, association for the preservation and indexing of Switzerland's audio-visual cultural heritage. Member of the Cantonal Art Commission, Bern, President starting in 2012. Vice President of Comitato Scientifico m.a.x. museo, Chiasso. Member of the Sitterwerk Foundation and member of the library advisory council of the Art Library in the Sitterwerk, St. Gallen. Numerous publications, editions/artist books and exhibitions on the subject-specific collection history of the Graphics Collection of the Swiss National Library and important acquisitions of artist archives (Daniel Spoerri, Karl Gerstner, Johannes Gachnang, Ulrich Meister, and many more). Currently completing her doctorate in art history at the University of Basel with Prof. Dr. Andreas Beyer (subject: how art came into the library and why it has stayed there. The Graphics Collection of the Swiss National Library: Philosophies and Perspectives.).

### The Café Society – Anthon Astrom, Fabian Wegmüller, Lukas Zimmer

Anthon Astrom studied natural sciences and fine art. He has been active as a lecturer, programmer, and designer since 2002. He has been working in the Woods, Zurich since 2009. Along with Lukas Zimmer, he heads Astrom Zimmer GmbH (graphic design and development) and The Café Society (teaching and research). The Café Society has existed since 2007 and has since then has already won numerous awards for the development of various experimental authoring environments.

After studying art and design in the video department at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Fabian Wegmüller was involved in establishing the studio the Woods in Zurich. He works as a freelance filmmaker and with The Cafe Society on projects between art, design, and research. He is also a member of staff as the videocompany, Zurich, where he assists as a video technician in the realization of art projects and exhibitions.

Lukas Zimmer studied visual communication in Bern and Amsterdam. Since 2007, he has been working as a freelance graphic designer in the studio the Woods in Zurich and is also involved in research projects at various universities and academies. In 2007, he initiated The Café Society in cooperation with Anthon Astrom.

### Christian Kern

Christian Kern (\*1961) studied agricultural sciences and received his doctorate in 1997 at the Technical University Munich on the use of RFID in animal husbandry. In cooperation with the semi-conductor industry, he has conducted extensive developmental work and led numerous research projects commissioned by the Bavarian Ministries of the Environment and Economics. Starting in 1998, Christian Kern worked for the paper industry and afterwards established an RFID library company in Switzerland. In 2004, he established InfoMedis AG with a specialization in RFID middleware, patient and object identification in hospitals, applications for libraries, museums, and offices (incl. the Sitterwerk Art Library). Christian Kern is the author of two specialist books, consultant, is represented in

numerous standardization committees, and President of the Smart Card Forum Switzerland.

Felix Lehner

Felix Lehner (\*1960) has dedicated himself to his interests in the plastic arts and the craft of casting since completing his training as a bookseller. He established the Kunstgiesserei in Beinwil am See in 1983 and moved to St.Gallen with two co-workers in 1994. Since then, he has continued to promote the development of the Kunstgiesserei and leads the operations. He established the Sitterwerk Foundation in 2006.

Claudia Mareis

Claudia Mareis Dr. Phil. is a cultural scientist with a special interest in design. She is currently doing research at eikones, the National Center for Competence in Research of Iconic Criticism at the University of Basel, and is an associate professor for design theory at the Hochschule der Künste Bern. She is also a part-time lecturer and guest professor for theories of design and culture at numerous Swiss and international art academies and universities (including the Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst Basel, Hochschule Luzern, Humboldt University of Berlin). Since 2008, she has been a member of the executive board of the German Society for Design Theory and Research (DGTF), since 2009 member of the Board of International Research in Design (BIRD) of the Birkhäuser publishing house, and since 2010 member of the Editorial Board of the international Journal for Artistic Research. Claudia Mareis initially studied graphic design and visual communication and has many years of international professional experience in this field. This was followed by studies of design, art, and cultural theories in Zurich and Berlin. In 2009, she was a fellow of the Swiss National Science Foundation at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. She received her PhD in 2010 with a work on "Design as Epistemic Culture. Interferences between Discourses of Design and Knowledge since 1960". She is currently working on a post-doctoral project on the history and practice of techniques for creativity and the generation of ideas in the post-war period, connected to Prof. Wolfgang Schäffner and the Institute for Cultural Science of the Humboldt University of Berlin.

Gerhard W. Matter

Dr. Gerhard W. Matter (\*1955), studied history and geography at the University of Zurich. Training as a scientific librarian in Zurich/Toronto. As the Cantonal Librarian Baselland since 2005, he is head of one of the most attractive libraries in Switzerland. Long years of involvement in library training and assistant professor at the University of Zurich. Member of the scientific advisory board of the course of studies in information sciences at the Hochschule in Chur and of the German specialist journal Buch und Bibliothek.

Philipp Messner

Philipp Messner (\*1975) studied cultural science at the Humboldt University of Berlin and Jewish Studies at the University of Potsdam. He lives in Zurich and works in the archive sector. In addition, since 2010, he has completed a post-graduate course in archive, library, and information science at the University of Bern. He is interested first and foremost in the material and medial aspects of the organization of knowledge and social memory.

Paul Michel

Paul Michel (\* 1947) studied German studies and art history in Zurich and Münster/Westfalen. In 1976, he received his PhD with Max Wehrli with a dissertation on the aesthetics of the ugly in the Middle Ages ("formosa deformitas"). He was an assistant at the German Seminar of the University of Zurich (Alois Haas Chair) for many years. In 1986, he qualified as a university lecturer with a work on the connections of form and function with regard to metaphor, simile, allegory, and allegorization ("alieniloquium"). In the years 1985 to 1989, he was a German teacher at the Zürcher Unterland Cantonal school in Bülach. In the winter semester 1989/90, he was appointed to the special field "German Literature until 1700" at the University of Zurich. At the end of the summer semester 2007, he stood down ahead of schedule. Along with Prof. Hans Weder, he headed a National Foundation project on the history of exegesis and hermeneutics from 1995 to 1999. Two books developed from this: "Sinnvermittlung" in 2000 and "Significatio" [co-editor: Regula Forster] 2007.

Hans Petschar

Dr. Hans Petschar (\*1959) studied history and German philology at the University of Salzburg (doctorate in 1985). He headed numerous projects on the digitalization of the cultural heritage at the Austrian National Library. In 2002, Dr. Petschar was appointed Director of the Image Archive of the Austrian National Library, and in 2010, Director of the Image Archive Collection and the Graphics Collection. Dr. Petschar is the official representative of the Austrian National Library in the Conference of European National Librarians CENL (since 2002) and member of the Management Committee der European Library (since 2009). He has published numerous books on the history of books and libraries as well as on media history and Austrian history.

Tobias Schelling

Tobias Schelling completed his training as a certified librarian (BBS). He was subsequently active in various scientific libraries and studied ethnology at the Universities of Zurich and Basel. Today, he works as a project leader for various building projects at the Central and University Library Lucerne.

Hans Witschi

Hans Witschi (\*1954) is an artist and musician. He studied painting in Zurich with Gustav Guldener. Since 1989, Hans Witschi has lived in New York. The documentary film "Witsche geht" by Paolo Poloni was released in 1990. Since 2008, he has been a faculty member of the Art Students League, New York.